

FOLLY FARMS
AUGUSTA CO. VIRGINIA
NEAR STAUNTON

HABS NO. 11-8

HABS
VA.
8- STAU.V,
1.

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings
PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. 11

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PHILIP M. STERN, DISTRICT OFFICER
21 LAW BLDG. FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

HABS
VA.

8 - STAUN. V

FOLLY FARMS
Near Staunton, Augusta
County
Virginia

Owner: Joseph Smith Cochran.

Date of Erection: Before 1818(?).

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: One, and basement.

Materials of Construction: Brick.

Other Existing Records: See text.¹

Additional Data: See following pages.

¹ Historic Gardens of Virginia, compiled by James River Garden Club, pp. 241-5.

HISTORICAL DATA

Folly Farms is located in Augusta County, five miles south of Staunton on State Highway No. 11. The house was built by Joseph Smith, the great grandfather of the present owner, Joseph Smith Cochran, and has been occupied by four successive generations.

The marble mantel pieces in the drawing room and in the dining room were the first to come into the Shenandoah Valley. The garden is surrounded on three sides by a brick serpentine wall.

References: Annie Cochran Rawlinson in Historic Gardens of Virginia, p.p. 241-245.

Said to have been built prior to 1818. The serpentine wall, therefore, is two years older than those built at the University of Virginia by Thomas Jefferson. Reference: Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia, p.p. 267-270.

Philip H. Stern

Joseph Smith, who built "Folly" in 1813, served in the Virginia Legislature with Thomas Jefferson. Many old papers in the hands of the present owners indicate a friend_{ship} between Thomas Jefferson and Joseph Smith. This, and the fact that the design bears many of the characteristics of Jefferson's work, justifies the owners contention that the plans were made by Thomas Jefferson.

One of the interesting things about the old place is the initials of various workmen cut into the old bricks together with the date. *What cut?*

Reference: Samuel J. Collins

Philip H. Stone

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.